

THE WEATHER
Cloudy and unsettled tonight and Wednesday; continued moderately cool; gentle winds, mostly northeast.
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR
8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5
56 58 57 55 52 52 54 55

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PRICE TWO CENTS

ARMY OFFICERS GRILL ROMIG IN BERGDOLL PROBE

Grover's "Man Friday" Defies Entire United States to Find Supposed Missing Yacht

QUESTIONED ON DETAILS OF SLACKER'S ESCAPE

Stories of Gibbonney and Mother Differ on Just Where "Pot of Gold" Came From

NO TRACE OF FUGITIVE

Col. Donaldson Takes Full Charge of Investigation Here for War Department

Army officers probing the escape last Friday of Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, army convict, who is searching for his hidden "pot of gold" perhaps—placed James E. Romig, the slacker's friend and confidant, on the grill in the Federal Building this morning.

Romig, a former magistrate who last March carried arm loads of ancient history books to Bergdoll during his trial as a draft dodger, at Governors Island, was quizzed on incidents preceding the disappearance of the slacker from his mother's home while in custody of two army sergeants.

Romig was in the Bergdoll home when Grover left a room presumably to answer a telephone call. He was questioned today by Colonel T. Q. Donaldson, of the Inspector General's Department; Captain John J. O'Hara and P. T. Conroy, chief of the military intelligence office in this city.

Navy patrols have been ordered to watch all of the Atlantic coast in the Third and Fourth naval districts for a speedboat that may contain the escaped slacker.

The watch was ordered from Washington by the Bureau of Investigation following a report that Bergdoll had left Atlantic City in a 140-foot gasoline launch.

Before entering the district attorney's office Romig defied any one to find the missing Bergdoll yacht.

Romig was the second witness called by the army probers, the first having been D. Clarence Gibbonney, chief counsel for the fugitive slacker, who was questioned for two hours yesterday.

Defies Any One to Find Yacht Romig, appearing at 10:30 o'clock, the federal building at 10:30 o'clock. "As I am on time," he asked J. J. O'Connor, Department of Justice agent who is credited with the capture of Bergdoll last January.

Assured he was, Romig paused before entering the district attorney's office, where the investigation is being conducted. "Where is the Emma?" Romig was asked. A slight smile on the former magistrate's face disappeared as he replied: "I defy anybody to find the Emma C."

"Asked if he knew or thought that Grover was on the supposedly missing Bergdoll yacht, Romig said he would not discuss the matter any further.

Silent on "Hidden Gold" "Has Bergdoll any hidden gold?" Romig must say nothing at this time, Romig answered.

"Do you know, 'Judge,' I believe there is hidden gold," one questioner said. "Young man," he replied, "when this thing is all over I think you will find you are not disappointed in your supposition."

Romig said he was notified last night by Gibbonney, chief counsel for the slacker, to go to the Federal Building this morning.

"I was put out a bit because I find important business this morning, but I had to put it aside," Romig continued, turning to Agent O'Connor, Romig added.

"I am glad to help the government. I am going in there and answer every question put to me. I am not going to hide anything," O'Connor smiled broadly.

OBJECTS TO PUBLICITY

Romig lost his voice when a newspaper camera man photographed him. "I have a cold," he said, "and I am not locked up," he shouted. Then he switched to a more conciliatory tone. "Oh, well, I can see a joke, I guess," he said.

GIBBONEY FINISHES TALE

Bergdoll Attorney Says Rumors Are "Lot of Hot Air"

JUDGE JAMES C. ROMIG

Former magistrate and "man Friday" of Bergdoll, who was grilled today in the army probe of slacker's escape

WORK ON PARKWAY PLOT

City to Make Improvements That Will Total \$16,000

Work was commenced today on the improvement of the plot of ground bounded by Broad, Filbert and Arch streets and the Parkway.

Among the suggested improvements are a fifty-foot drive diagonally across the plot from the southwest corner of Broad and Arch streets to the Broad Street Station. The drive will have fifteen-foot sidewalks, hedge, grass plots and trees and other features planned. The work will cost \$10,000, and the contract has been given to the Backus Asphalt Paving Co.

A band stand, for a city band, will be erected on the Arch street side at a cost of \$3500.

GIRL AND \$7000 GEMS GONE

Police Hunt Former Maid in Edward S. Jackson Home

Police and detectives have begun a nation-wide search for a servant girl who disappeared from the home of Edward S. Jackson, 331 West Johnson street, Germantown. Mr. Jackson is president of the Miller Lock Co.

The girl, "cleaned up" the Jackson home last Tuesday, but was careful to select only diamonds during the "clean up" process. A roll of money, some gold rings set with stones other than diamonds; gold watches and silverware were left untouched by the young woman. They were all replaced carefully where Mrs. Jackson had left them when she left some play golf—that is, all but the diamonds. The latter and the girl haven't been seen since.

FIREMEN IN HARD FIGHT

Save Houses at Bodine and Dauphin Streets Blaze

Through strenuous work by firemen several homes were saved from destruction when flames were discovered early this morning in the plant of the Consolidated Ice Co., Bodine above Dauphin street.

The fire started on the roof and spread to the third floor. A strong northeast wind was blowing and showers of sparks covered scores of nearby house-tops.

At times the flames scorched houses on the opposite side of the street. In their nightclothes, as destruction of the firemen assisted tenants of nearby homes to save their belongings. Occupants of houses in many cases worked in their nightclothes, as destruction of their homes seemed sure, and there was no time for sleep.

The firemen fought the blaze for nearly two hours, and finally succeeded in stopping the damage to the ice plant will amount to several thousand dollars.

JOHN T. WRIGHT DIES

Recent Democratic Candidate for Mayor in Camden Was 79

John T. Wright, a member of the Camden county board of taxation and candidate for mayor on the Democratic ticket at the last election, died this morning at the age of seventy-nine in his home at Eighth and Market streets, Camden.

Mr. Wright had been ailing for some time. His death was the immediate result of a heart attack, complicated by his advanced age.

He was for many years in the commission of Philadelphia and during the free silver campaign was an active advocate and admirer of William Jennings Bryan. At that time he was well known in the East for his brilliant oratory.

SHERMAN HITS BONUS BILL

Hints Aim of American Legion Is to "Loot Federal Treasury"

Washington, May 25.—(By A. P.)—Senator Sherman, of Illinois, speaking today in the Senate, denounced the proposed soldier-relief bill as a "disgraceful deterioration of the patriotism of the American Legion is to 'loot the federal treasury,'" he said, "it is a disgraceful organization."

GREAT COUNCIL CONVENES

Philadelphia Women Read Poca-hontas Reports

Senate Probe is Johnson's Whip Hand Over G. O. P.

Foes of Californian Squirm as Candidates Reveal Money Barrels—Dare Not Halt Inquiry; Fear Giving Democrats Campaign Bait

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger

Washington, May 25.—Republicans in the Senate this morning awoke to the realization that Johnson, through his control of the Kenyon investigation, had the party organization in the hands of the anti-Johnson Republicans in the Senate and on the committee, there was a good deal of consternation over yesterday's developments before the common man has begun to talk of ways of slowing down or restricting the inquiry.

Members of the committee themselves, who feel they are being used in the interests of Johnson, are especially anxious to see the Democrats quit as a protest against organization of the committee and its program.

It is difficult to see how any check can be put on the investigation. In the first place, the committee is controlled by Kenyon—a Johnson man—and two Democrats, Reed and Patterson, of whom Reed is as much a Johnson man as is Borah himself. It is impossible, it seems, to restrict the operations of the committee under such circumstances.

Democrats on the Alert Moreover, not to go through with the inquiry now is only to make matters worse. The only way the Democrats can be prevented from making Republican campaign expenditures an issue in the next election is for this committee to go through with its work and either clear the candidates of suspicion that Senator Borah has succeeded in fastening upon them or eliminate as possibilities the big campaign spenders.

One both the minority of the committee have to keep the investigation from contributing solely to the aid of Johnson, is that they can fix such large

STECHEK NOT WITH GROVER, WIFE SAYS

Thinks Bergdoll's Chauffeur Is "Just Away" Hunting "or Something"

FEEDS DUCKS AND SMILES

Mrs. Frieda Stecher, the pretty little wife of "Ike" Stecher, Grover Bergdoll's chauffeur, went back to her home at Chester pike and Darby creek today to feed her ducks and chickens and "to see dose newspaper bummers."

The phrase is Mrs. Stecher's own. She talks English with a bit of a German accent and a lispid voice. She has an infectious smile, and was entirely good-natured about letting the "newspaper bummers" interview her.

In fact, Mrs. Stecher said she thought she would make a sign and hang it out on her house: "Mrs. Stecher is at home all day to see dose newspaper bummers."

Has Faith in Husband Little Mrs. Stecher doesn't believe that her "Gene," as she calls her husband, is feigning with Bergdoll, though she admits that the circumstances have a suspicious look.

"Here I am with a clear conscience," she exclaimed when the newspaper "bummers" greeted her as she got off her car. "Is my husband with Bergdoll?" "Don't ask me," she said. "I don't know. He would be foolish to go away with Grover. They were almost raised together, you know. Everybody has seen them together. Why, they even look like brothers. Gene would be taken for Grover. I think he would be foolish to do it."

"I'm not worried about my 'Gene' being away. But then that is nothing new to me. When he went to the Mexican border with the Pennsylvania National Guard—yes, he was in the great campaign, since he was only a boy almost—he came to me and gave me two hours' notice he was going away. So I am already used to his going away quickly and not saying much before he goes."

May Be on Hunting Trip "The last I saw of 'Gene' was Thursday last. He was entertaining some people here and 'Gene' came in an automobile with a friend. He came in and stayed about ten minutes. Then he said, 'I won't be home for supper, I won't be again. That was the last I saw of him.'"

"Of course, he might have gone hunting. He works at the Wood's Garage, at Ninth and Locust streets, in Philadelphia, and he and Wood, the owner, often go away on hunting trips for two weeks at a time. I'm never worried when he is away. But I wouldn't live alone out here."

Mrs. Stecher is popular in the little community where she lives. The children especially love her because of her smile and her readiness to give them candy.

Has Candy for Children This morning when she stepped off the car several youngsters ran over with outstretched hands and smiling greetings. "Did you bring us some candy, Mrs. Stecher?"

Yes, she brought the candy, and the small mouths were stuffed too full in a moment to more than murmur thanks. The youngsters followed her down the street, clutching her skirt. "I'm glad you brought the candy, and friendly heads were thrust out with a pleasant 'Good morning.'"

It was through neighbors, who telephoned her at her mother's house, where she had gone after "Gene" disappeared, that she learned the "newspaper bummers" were looking for her, as a newspaper man had been waiting near her house all day yesterday to interview her.

Mrs. Stecher would not disclose where her mother lives in Philadelphia, nor did the friendly neighbors give her away. The young wife of "Ike," or "Gene" as she prefers to call him, the "Ike" being Mrs. Bergdoll's version of "Eugene," is decidedly pretty, of brunette type and petite.

DEWIES EDWARDS IS 'UNDERWRITTEN' BY LIQUOR TRADE

W. W. Vick Tells Senate Probers N. J. Governor Isn't 'Wet' Candidate

HOOPER'S FUND \$66,332 OUTSIDE OF CALIFORNIA

Gifts to Former Food Chief's Chest \$1000 Each—Corporation Aid Barred

High Cost of Presidency Shown by Senate Inquiry

FRANK O. LOWDEN—Fund of \$414,084; candidate contributed \$379,159. HIRAM W. JOHNSON—Financed with \$72,000 (California and Oregon funds omitted).

LEONARD A. WOOD—Total fund as yet unreported. Scattering items made known. HERBERT HOOPER—Backed by \$75,000 contributions. HOWARD SUTHERLAND—Expenditures of \$4251.

HEBERT HOOPER—\$66,332 (exclusive of California). JOSEPH I. FRANCE—No fund, no organization.

DEMOCRATIC EDWARD J. EDWARDS—\$12,000 raised for campaign.

ROBERT L. OWEN—Received committee of approximately \$15,000. JAMES M. COX—Expended \$22,000.

By the Associated Press Washington, May 25.—A declaration that the expenditures in Herbert Hoover's presidential campaign exclusive of the California primary expenses, amount to \$66,332, aid a denial that liquor interests are financing the boom of Governor Edward J. Edwards, of New Jersey, featured today's Senate investigation of campaign funds.

"Some individuals have said that the Democratic presidential campaign of Governor Edwards, denied before the Senate committee that any liquor interests were 'underwriting' the governor's campaign."

Mr. Wick was replying to questions by Senator Reed, Democrat, Missouri, who had testified that the total fund raised for his candidate was \$125,000. "Have you got any other money pledged or substantially pledged for your further use?" asked Senator Reed. "I have not," Mr. Wick replied.

Not Financed by Liquor Interests "Have any group of men promised to underwrite your future expense, whatever it is?" "No, sir. The amounts are small."

"All right, let's put it bluntly," Senator Reed continued. "Have the liquor interests undertaken to finance your campaign?" "No, sir," Mr. Wick said sharply. "His campaign is not a 'wet' campaign in any sense. He is running solely on the platform of his personal convictions as to personal liberty and business efficiency."

Not at all," was the reply. "I have not made any pledge of promise of office, in case of Governor Edwards's election, to anybody," asked Senator Reed. "Absolutely none," Mr. Wick replied.

For Personal Liberty Questioned concerning an independent campaign organization formed at Chicago, Mr. Wick said it was "a demand for personal liberty" and that supporting Governor Edwards was only a single one of its objects. Frank S. Hurley, of Chicago, had said, was in charge.

"Contributors to our campaign are Cornelius J. Edwards, the governor's cousin, \$3000; W. W. Vick, \$1000; David E. Edwards, his brother, \$3800; Charles E. McWilliams, New York city, \$2500; T. Woodruff, New York city, \$500; and J. J. Teery, \$100."

The testimony that the expenditures of \$66,332, exclusive of California, in the primary campaign, had been made in the campaign of Herbert Hoover for the Republican presidential nomination, was given by John J. Lucey, manager for Mr. Hoover. Total receipts were placed at \$62,185.

Senator Reed questioned Mr. Lucey and before going into the matter of campaign expenses he asked as to Mr. Hoover's residence. Mr. Lucey refused to coincide with the senator's suggestion that Mr. Hoover's real residence was London, England, but he was not positive on the point.

"I want to know something about expenditures," Senator Edge interrupted. Chairman Kenyon ruled the question in order.

"I can give you all the figures but those in the California campaign," Mr. Lucey said. "They were handled there."

"There have been many charges on the subject of Attorney General Wood in the Oregon primaries, with Lowden there and Hoover fourth."

A Senate investigation reveals that \$104,000 has been spent for six presidential candidates. Lowden put \$379,159 into his own campaign. Johnson in an address in New York urged that big corporations be taxed proportionately with small merchants.

BOMIG, QUIZZED THREE HOURS, WAS EVASIVE, ASSERTS McAVOY

Former Magistrate Romig was quizzed for three hours and ten minutes today, by army investigators, who sought to learn what he knew concerning the flight of Grover Bergdoll. "Romig was indefinite, uncertain and evasive," said U. S. District Attorney McAvoy, who also took part in the questioning. "He and Gibbonney don't agree on important details, and in some instances, the 'Judge' doesn't agree with himself. He refused answers to several important questions."

ROBBERS CART OFF 15 BARRELS OF LIQUOR

Four men drove up to the liquor store of B. Wolf, at 854 North Third street, at 5 o'clock this morning, broke open the door and escaped with fifteen barrels of whisky, valued at more than \$5,000, which they loaded in a motor-truck, police say.

CITY THREAT FAILS TO ALARM SCHMIDT

Sears-Roebuck Manager, on Phone, Has "Nothing to Say" of Council Probers' Action

TRIP EAST INDEFINITE

A. B. Schmidt, of Chicago, eastern manager for the Sears-Roebuck Co., "has no comment to make" on the threat of the councilman's probe committee to have him indicted for perjury and brought to Philadelphia to face a trial to testify before them.

"I don't know anything about it," he replied this morning when asked over the long-distance telephone what he was going to do in view of the threat of arrest.

"I have nothing to say," was his comment when told the telegram sent by the committee to Julius Rosenwald, president of the Sears-Roebuck Co., requesting the official to "use his influence for the state of Senora, and this city, to persuade Mr. Schmidt to come back and go on the witness stand again."

"When are you likely to come to Philadelphia on your own accord?" Mr. Schmidt was asked. "I have nothing to say," was his reply.

"I have nothing to say about the matter whatever?" he was asked. "Again the stereotyped 'No, I have nothing to say.'"

"I have nothing to say," varied with "I have no comment to make," and "I know nothing about it," to lead additional variety, was the sum and substance of Mr. Schmidt's interjections concerning the threat emanating from the Philadelphia Board of Councilmen, Mr. Schmidt said.

Mr. Schmidt probably will be determined at a conference called for today. According to Thomas E. Mitten, president of the Philadelphia Board of Councilmen, Mr. Schmidt's action concerning the paying of a bribe to obtain favorable councilmanic action on a proposed real estate project, was the cause of the present situation.

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BALLOT IN W. VA. TODAY

Wood Expected to Defeat Sutherland in Preferential Primary

Charleston, W. Va., May 25.—(By A. P.)—Pleasant weather throughout West Virginia today prompted political leaders to predict a comparatively large vote at the state-wide primaries which are to register presidential preference and place in nomination complete state and county tickets.

The presidential candidates on the ticket are all in the Republican column. They are: Louis Adam Baird, of Parkersburg; Fred C. Eppinger, of Charleston; Ephraim D. Morgan, of Fairmont; and Samuel R. Montgomery, of Kingwood. The Democratic candidates are Arthur B. Knott and Adam B. Littlepage, both of Charleston.

SIGN U. S.-CANADA TREATY

Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Covered in New Convention

Washington, May 25.—(By A. P.)—A treaty between the United States and Canada covering the "sockeye" salmon fisheries was signed today by Secretary Clegg for the United States, Ephraim D. Godley for Great Britain and Sir Douglas Haven for Canada.

Big Sums Are Poured Into Presidential Fight

Johnson has apparently nosed out Wood in the Oregon primaries, with Lowden there and Hoover fourth.

A Senate investigation reveals that \$104,000 has been spent for six presidential candidates. Lowden put \$379,159 into his own campaign. Johnson in an address in New York urged that big corporations be taxed proportionately with small merchants.

COMMITTEE URGES ASSEMBLY TO VETO INTERCHURCH PLAN

John Willis Baer Recommends Presbyterians to Withdraw From Movement

WOULD, HOWEVER, SETTLE ACCOUNT—ALREADY OWED

New Era Program Now Faces a Deficit of \$596,000 in Two Years

The Presbyterian Church was urged to withdraw from the Interchurch World Movement by the executive committee, John Willis Baer, chairman, in a report presented at today's session of the 132d General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

The report, agreed upon by the committee only after they had worked far into the night, will sound the death knell, it is predicted, of the Interchurch World Movement if the commissioners adopt the report.

It provides that the Presbyterians will withdraw. They will pay the share, however, to which they already have obligated themselves, a total of \$1,000,000.

The principal recommendations of the committee's report were as follows: First—That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America decline to incur any further financial obligation with regard to the Interchurch World Movement; that it terminate its relationship with said movement, and that it withdraw any representation it may have therein.

Committee Appreciates Work Second, That the general assembly take immediate steps to provide for the payment by the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America of the amount underwritten by the new era committee, in behalf of the Interchurch World Movement, as authorized by the executive committee, a total amount of that amount as may still be owing.

Third, That official notice of this action be given to the Interchurch World Movement through the New Era committee and to the boards and agencies of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

Fourth, That the assembly records its appreciation of the high purpose and the Christian devotion of the Interchurch World Movement in the way of clearer vision of the vast and imperative needs of the world and of the broadened scope of the responsibility of the Christian church.

The report of the executive committee was supplemented by an independent report made by the committee of bills and overtures, which recommended that the Interchurch World Movement in the way of clearer vision of the vast and imperative needs of the world and of the broadened scope of the responsibility of the Christian church.

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By the Associated Press Mexico City, May 25.—In accordance with his oft-repeated request, President Venustiano Carranza, slain last Thursday morning at Tlaxcalantongo, was buried late yesterday afternoon in Dolores Cemetery, where, in the shadow of Chapultepec, the poorest of Mexicans have for many years found their last resting places.

As the funeral cortege left the home of the late chief executive, the extraordinary session of congress was being called to order to choose a president ad interim, to hold office until a new president, to be elected September 5, was inaugurated.

The body of the slain president arrived in Mexico City at 5:30 yesterday morning and was taken to the family home being escorted by soldiers and a delegation from the diplomatic corps. Later the body lay in state until the hour of the funeral, thousands passing before the casket to look upon the face of the man who was hurled from power by revolution and whose death occurred under circumstances that await explanation.

Colonel Adolfo Herrero, leader of revolutionary forces, who has been placed responsibility for the death of Carranza has telegraphed to army authorities here that the president committed suicide rather than surrender.

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By the Associated Press Suicide, Herero Claims The text of Colonel Herrero's report to Mexico City was received here last night. The part relative to the attack on Carranza and the latter's death follows:

"With the object of arresting Carranza and the principal leaders of the revolution, I attacked his camp at 3 o'clock a. m., having eighty men with me. He had reached Tlaxcalantongo, where there is a pass leading northward to a part of the mountain where he had planned to establish his seat of government. The president was under escort of troops commanded by General Murguía."

"When he realized that escape was impossible, Carranza committed suicide by shooting himself in the breast with a pistol, which he always carried. So close was the muzzle of the weapon to his breast that blood was splattered upon it and the barrel of the pistol still bears bloodstains."

Provisional President De La Huerta will take the oath of office on June 1, according to present plans. In the election in Congress Fernando Iglesias (Isla) of Veracruz, governor of that state, received one vote.

The state government of Chihuahua has prohibited the sale of liquors containing more than 14 per cent of alcohol.

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By the Associated Press Needs Other Leaders "If the movement continued Doctor Baer, there wouldn't be so many men determined to get it out of the way."

Cries of "No," "No," "No," came from all parts of the house. "I think the financial objection has been removed," Mr. Baer continued, "still we would have been in a dangerous position. The movement needs a different kind of leadership. The report of this kind is of the plunging type and cannot be trusted. The leaders of the interchurch world movement were unwilling to listen to the 'old fogies.'"